

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:293
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
ALLOTMENT OF FOREST LAND
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for allotment of forest land to the private parties for its development;
- (b) the forest land given to the private parties in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether revenue is collected from such land allottees; and
- (d) if so, the revenue thus collected during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 293 BY DR. M. JAGANNATH REGARDING "ALLOTMENT OF FOREST LAND" DUE FOR REPLY ON 14.08.2006

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued guidelines for participation of private sector through involvement of Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and Forest Department for afforestation/rehabilitation of degraded forest land with a view to increasing forest cover in the country. According to these guidelines, the State/Union Territory Government may enter into a tri-partite agreement through the Forest Department with the industrial house and an acceptable NGO for such purpose. The essential elements of such arrangement are as follows:

- (i) The industrial house must commit to bear the cost of the Afforestation scheme, and the NGO must commit to faithfully implement the scheme under the supervision and directions of the Forest Department.
- (ii) The industrial house as well as the NGO shall not claim any right whatsoever over the forest land or produce therefrom.
- (iii) The rights of the local people, if any, over the forest land shall not be affected.
- (iv) The agreement shall be for a period of five to seven years.
- (v) Plantation of naturally occurring species and local native species should be given priority.
- (vi) Forest land having less than forty percent forest cover, and which cannot be regenerated through natural regeneration, should be taken up under the scheme.

(b)to(d) Details of forest land involved and revenue collected, if any, under such arrangement are maintained at the State/Union Territory level, as according to the guidelines referred to in part (a), prior permission of the Central Government is not required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for such arrangement.